

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, AS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON AUSTRALIAN-SOVIET SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH

1. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED  
TO THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS OFFICE IN THE EVENT QUESTIONS ARE  
ASKED ABOUT THE PROPOSED SOVIET-AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH STATION:

2. Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES PROTESTED TO THE AUSTRALIAN  
&9;34,.3,5 AGAINST A PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN-SOVIET SCIENTIFIC  
STATION WHICH WE THINK MIGHT SPY ON U.S. FACILITIES?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A VISITING SOVIET SCIENTIFIC  
DELEGATION IN AUSTRALIA MADE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FOR  
COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS. AS ALLIES, THE UNITED  
STATES AND AUSTRALIA ARE IN CLOSE CONTINUING CONTACT ON  
MATTERS OF JOINT INTEREST. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
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MENTIONED THE SOVIET PROPOSALS TO US AND ASKED FOR OUR

REACTION, WHICH WE PROVIDED. WE DO NOT NORMALLY COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES, AND I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THIS ONE. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE, MAY BE WILLING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

3. Q. WHAT FACILITIES DO WE HAVE IN AUSTRALIA THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY SUCH AN AGREEMENT?

A. OUR FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA ARE COVERED BY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE IN THE PUBLIC

DOMAIN AND AVAILABLE FROM THE PRINTING OFFICE. MOST ARE EITHER COMMUNICATIONS RELAY STATIONS OR SPACE-TRACKING FACILITIES. SOME OF THEIR WORK IS CLASSIFIED, BUT AS ALLIES, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE IN THE OPERATION OF THE FACILITIES, AND THE INFORMATION DERIVED FROM RESEARCH FACILITIES.

4. Q. DON'T WE HAVE A SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION SIMILAR TO THE ONE THEY PROPOSED WITH AUSTRALIA?

A. WE DO HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION COVERING A RELATIVELY WIDE RANGE OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. OF COURSE, THERE ARE SOME FIELDS WHICH BOTH WE AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD REGARD AS SENSITIVE, OR ORIENTED TOWARD NATIONAL SECURITY, WHERE TRUE COOPERATION IN THE "JOINT VENTURE" SENSE WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL. NEEDLESS TO SAY, OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD AUSTRALIA'S OR ANY COUNTRY'S DESIRE TO SIGN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, IS THAT THAT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER. WE WOULD BE MINDFUL OF OUR INTERESTS, AND WOULD FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS AN OPINION OR REACTION IF WE THOUGHT OUR INTERESTS WERE AFFECTED--IN EITHER A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE WAY.

5. Q. SO HOW CAN WE PROTEST TO AUSTRALIA IF WE HAVE THE SAME SORTS OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND REGARD THEIRS AS AN INTERNAL MATTER?

A. WE HAVE NOT PROTESTED AGAINST A POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN-UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, BUT WHEN A CLOSE ALLY LIKE AUSTRALIA ASKS FOR OUR COMMENT ON MATTERS SHE MUST DECIDE, WE WOULD NATURALLY BE WILLING TO GIVE OUR OPINION. RUSH

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